

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 21-1115  
Client's Docket No. AMC3230

**APPLICATION**

**FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

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**SPECIFICATION**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **RICHARD J. BOOS**, a citizen of  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful  
**ELECTRONIC MEMORANDUM SYSTEM** of which the following  
is a specification:



## ELECTRONIC MEMORANDUM SYSTEM

### 5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to electronic organizers and  
10 more particularly pertains to a new electronic memorandum system  
for organizing miscellaneous personal information and messages.

#### **Description of the Prior Art**

15 The use of electronic organizers is known in the prior art.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,785,564 describes a device for entering  
information directly into a handheld organizer. Another type of  
organizer is U.S. Patent No. 5,901,937 having a means to attach  
personal items to a computer monitor.

20 While these devices fulfill their respective, particular  
objectives and requirements, the need remains for a system that has  
provides an electronic method of storing information and displaying  
the information separate from a computer monitor, without  
25 unnecessary clutter commonly found with hand written paper notes.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by providing at least one display separate from a computer monitor for 5 displaying information entered onto an electronic pad.

An object of the present invention is to provide a new electronic memorandum system that provides the benefits of electronic storage with the convenience of hand written notes.

10 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new electronic memorandum system that provides a cleaner presentation of user information than usually possible with hand written notes.

15 To this end, the present invention generally comprises a data entry device for receiving manual entry of information from a user, and a data display member operationally coupled to the data entry device, which is couplable to a video display monitor. The data 20 display member provides a visual record of the information entered by the user.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed 25 description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

30 The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with

particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

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Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a new electronic memorandum system according to the present invention.

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Figure 2 is a schematic front view of the data display members of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic front view of the data entry device of the present invention.

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Figure 4 is a schematic perspective rear view of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a schematic exploded perspective view of a data display member of the present invention.

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Figure 6 is a functional interconnect diagram of the present invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 6 thereof, a new electronic memorandum system 5 embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 6, the electronic memorandum system 10 generally comprises a data entry device 20 10 and a pair of data display members 40.

The data entry device 20 is for receiving manual entry of information from a user. The data entry device 20 includes a housing 22 designed for resting upon a horizontal surface and has a top surface 24. The data entry device 20 includes a touch screen 26 which is preferably operationally coupled to the top surface 24 the touch screen 26 facilitates capture of information written on the touch screen 26 by a user.

Each one of the pair of data display members 40 is preferably operationally coupled to the data entry device 20. Each one of the data display members 40 is couplable to an associated side of a video display monitor 2. The data display members 40 provide a visual record of the information entered by the user. Each of the data display members 40 includes a housing 42 operationally couplable to an associated side of a video display monitor 2. The housing 42 includes a back wall 44 and a perimeter wall 46 which extends outwardly from a perimeter edge of the back wall 44. Each one of the pair of data display members 40 includes a display screen 48 positioned within the housing 42 and abutting the

perimeter wall 46 such that the display screen 48 is visible from a front of the housing 42.

In an embodiment the data entry device 20 further comprises a 5 stylus member 30 for facilitating entry of the information onto the touch screen 26. The stylus 30 is designed for being grasped by a human hand.

In a further embodiment the data entry device 20 includes a 10 wireless transmitter member 28. The wireless transmitter member 28 is for transmitting the information entered by the user to the data display members 40. Similarly, the data display members 40 each include a wireless receiver 50 for receiving the information transmitted by the wireless transmitter 28.

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In yet a further embodiment each one of the data display members 40 is pivotally coupled to an associated side of the video display monitor 2. Thus, the data display member 40 can be pivoted 20 to a stored position defined by the back wall 44 abutting a side of the video display monitor 2.

Preferably the position of an item of user information is 25 selectable by the user on either one of the pair of data display members 40.

In a further embodiment, the data entry device 20 may be coupled to each one of the data display members 40 via a cable 32. This embodiment is particularly useful for high electronic noise environments or where increased privacy is desired.

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Additionally, the data entry device 20 may have a keyboard functionality allowing the user to "type" the desired information by selecting characters on the data entry device 20 with the stylus 30. This same functionality may be used for a menu functionality for 10 setting up and maintaining the system 10.

In an embodiment each one of the pair of data display members 40 further includes a selection means 52 for adjusting an orientation of text being displayed for a vertical orientation when 15 the data display member 40 is coupled to a vertical side of the video display monitor 2 or a horizontal orientation when the data display member 40 is coupled to a horizontal side of the video display monitor 2. The selection means 52 may be a dip switch, multi-positional switch, mercury switch, or any other appropriate 20 orientation indicating switch.

In a further embodiment the selection means 52 facilitates designation of each one of the data display members 40 between a right data display member, to be attached to the right side of the 25 video display monitor 2, and a left data display member to be attached to the left side of the video display monitor 2.

5 In still a further embodiment the selection means 52 facilitates designation of each one of the data display members 40 between a top data display member, to be attached to the top of the video display monitor 2, and a bottom data display member to be attached to the bottom of the video display monitor 2.

10 In a preferred embodiment each one of the pair of data display members 40 further comprises a first end portion 60, a second end portion 62, and a plurality of intermediate portions 64. The first end portion 60 may be aligned adjacent to a selected corner of the video display monitor 2. Similarly, the second end portion 62 may be aligned adjacent to a second selected corner of the monitor 2. Each one of the plurality of intermediate portions 64 is serially couplable between the first end portion 60 and the second end portion 62. The overall length of the data display monitor 40 is determined by the number of intermediate portions 64 used. Thus the overall length of each of the data display members 40 is adjustable.

20 In an embodiment each one of the pair of data display members 40 further comprises at least one bracket member 54 and at least one slot array 66. The bracket members 54 include a coupling means 55, for coupling the housing 42 of the data display member 40 to the video display monitor 2, and a tab portion 56. The slot arrays 66 are positioned on the back wall 44 of the housing 42 of the data display member 40, and provide multiple interface points 68 between the tab portion 56 and the housing 42 of the data display member 40. The tab portion 56 is selectively receivable in a selected one of the interface points 68.

In a further embodiment the bracket member 54 is formable to a contour of the video display monitor 2 to maximize a surface area of the bracket member 54 in contact with the video display monitor 2.

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Preferably the coupling means 55 further comprises a clay type adhesive for removably coupling the bracket member 54 to the video display monitor 2. While the clay type adhesive is preferred, other coupling means including double stick tape, hook and loop fastener, liquid adhesive, screws, or clips may also be used.

The tab portion further comprising a pair of pin members 58 extending outwardly from an associated end of the tab portion 56. The pin members 58 are biased outwardly, and are positionable in the tab portion 56. The pin members 58 facilitate engagement between the tab portion 56 and the interface points 68.

A scanner assembly 36 may be operationally coupled to the data entry device 20 for converting pre-printed text to an input for the data entry device 20.

In an embodiment the data entry device 20 further comprises a multiplicity of controls. This multiplicity of controls may include a scroll control 75, edit controls 70, color selection controls 76, and multiple display segments 77,78. The scroll control 75 is used for facilitating scrolling through previously entered visual records entered by the user. The plurality of edit controls 70 is used for facilitating management of visual records. The plurality of edit controls may include a new visual record selection control 72 to facilitate entry of new information by the user into a new visual

record, an existing visual record selection control 74 to facilitate review and editing of an existing visual record, a delete visual records control 73 for facilitating deletion of visual records from the data display members 40, and a clear pad control 71 to clear 5 information entered on the data entry device 20. The multiple display segments may include a note number display segment 77 to provide a visual indication of a control number associated with the visual record; and a date display segment 78 for providing a visual indication of a date associated with the visual record. The color 10 selection control 76 is used for facilitating selection of a background color to be associated with the visual record displayed on the data display member 40.

Finally, the system 10 may be coupled to a PDA, handheld 15 computer, notebook, or desktop computer to share information.

In use, the user grasps the stylus in a manner similar to a convention pen. The user uses the stylus to write or "type" the desired information on to the touch screen. The information is then 20 displayed on a selected area of the data display members.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, 25 function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.